

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR SITREP NBR AND REFERENCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX

SUBJ: SITREP NO. 43 PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: COMMENTS IN EXCELSIOR
OF CDTD SAHAGUN

REF: SITREP 42

FFOLLOWING ARE SOME ADDITIONAL QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO FRANCISCO
SAHAGUN BACA, COMMANDER OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE, AS
THEY APPEARED IN AN EXCELSIOR STORY BY VICTOR PAYAN IN
HERMOSILLO--"THE KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN VICECONSUL JOHN
PATTERSON WAS NOT CARRIED OUT BY ANY SUBVERSIVE GROUP BUT
BY COMMON CRIMINALS AND EVEN THE POSSIBILITY OF A SELF-
KIDNAPPING IS NOT RULED OUT, FRANCISCO SAHAGUN BACA, COMMANDER
OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE SAID TODAY. "HE ADDED THAT
INVESTIGATORS OF THE GENERAL SECURITY DIRECTORATE AND THE
FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE ARE WORKING TO SOLVE THIS CASE,
BUT HE ADDED: 'THERE ARE MANY STRANGE THINGS IN THIS MATTER
IN WHICH NO VIOLENCE WAS USED AND IT GIVES THE IMPRESSION
THAT EVEN PATTERSON COOPERATED TO BE KIDNAPPED". "COMMANDER
SAHAGUN BACA ALSO SAID THAT PATTERSON WAS SEEN IN HIS VEHICLE
WITH ANOTHER AMERICAN, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DISAPPEARANCE. "HE
SAID THE VICECONSUL LEFT THE CONSULATE'S OFFICES AT
11 A.M., WENT OUT WITH ANOTHER FOREIGNER AND THEY BOARDED
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AN OFFICIAL VEHICLE WHICH 70 MINUTES LATER THEY ABANDONED

AT A GAS STATION ON THE ROAD TO NOGALES. "PATTERSON WAS SEEN AT THIS PLACE BY ONE OF THE ATTENDANTS. HE TOLD INVESTIGATORS THAT THE VICECONSUL PARKED HIS VEHICLE, GOT OFF WITH HIS COMPANION AND THEN THEY BOARDED ANOTHER VEHICLE. "DURING THE TRIP PATTERSON WAS ALSO SEEN BY A WATCHMAN OF THE EL ENCANTO MOTEL JUST BEFORE THE GAS STATION. HE SAID THE AMERICAN WAS CHATTING WITH ANOTHER MAN AND THAT HE WAS DRIVING ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS PER HOUR. PATTERSON HAD BEEN LIVING FOR THREE MONTHS IN THE MOTEL WITH HIS WIFE ANNE AND THEIR DAUGHTER JULIE, FIVE YEARS OLD. "ANOTHER POINT WHICH MAKES POLICE ASSUME THAT THE KIDNAPPERS ARE NOT GUERRILLAS...IS THE LETTER WRITTEN BY PATTERSON WHICH WAS LEFT AT THE CONSULATE, PRACTICALLY IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE. "SAHAGUN SAYS THE LETTER IS WRITTEN IN FIRM HANDWRITING, VERY WELL DETAILED AND WRITTEN BY PATTERSON WHO SAYS IN ONE OF THE PARAGRAPHS "IT SEEMS I'M BEING KIDNAPPED". "PATTERSON'S LETTER EXPLAINS THAT KIDNAPPERS ARE ASKING SIX MILLION PESOS RANSOM AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE MADE AT THE EL DORADO MOTEL AT NOGALES, ABOUT 20 METERS FROM THE BORDER LINE. TUCSON, ARIZONA IS ON THE OTHER SIDE. THE LETTER ALSO SAYS THE RANSOM MUST BE PAID PRECISELY AT THIS HOTEL AND THAT A "GUERRILLA" WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN GETTING CAUGHT ON THE AMERICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER WHEN HE HAS HERE THE GREAT ADVANTAGE OF THE SIERRA. "UNOFFICIALLY, SOME AGENTS SAID THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT PATTERSON, 31 YEARS OLD, MIGHT SHOW UP SUNDAY MORNING BUT THEY DID NOT GIVE THEIR REASONS FOR THEIR BELIEF. "IT WAS ALSO KNOWN THAT THE VICECONSUL'S WIFE ANNE PATTERSON HAS ALREADY TWO MILLION PESOS TO PAY THE RANSOM BUT THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE OF THE KIDNAPPERS' SILENCE. "THE US CONSULATE PUBLISHED A NOTE IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ASKING THE PUBLIC'S COLLABORATION TO TRY TO FIND AND IDENTIFY THE PERSONS WHO LEFT PATTERSON'S RANSOM LETTER AT THE DIPLOMATIC OFFICES. "IT WAS ALSO KNOWN THAT MRS. PATTERSON LEFT LAST SATURDAY ABOARD A PRIVATE PLANE FOR TUCSON WITH HER LITTLE DAUGHTER AND RETURNED TO HERMOSILLO WITH HALF THE RANSOM MONEY. ANNE TRIED TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE KIDNAPPERS AT THE MOTEL EL DORADO BUT SHE COULD NOT DO IT BECAUSE OF TIGHT POLICE VIGILANCE IN THE WHOLE ZONE".

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